

Utilities and Sustainability Task Force
Minutes from the 2/15/07 Meeting

Next meeting: Mar. 15, 2007

In attendance:

Bruce Chamberlain, ABAG Energy Watch
Bob Cormia, Sustainable Silicon Valley
Bill Dickenson, Belmont City Council
Jerry Hill, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
Kathy Lavezzo, PG&E
Terry Nagel, Mayor of Burlingame
Richard Napier, C/CAG
Mario Panoringan, Colma-Daly City Chamber of Commerce
Barbara Pierce, Mayor of Redwood City
Dianne Anderson, San Mateo County RecycleWorks (staff)
Gina Blus, Facilitator (staff)
Kim Springer, San Mateo County RecycleWorks (staff)

Not in attendance:

Deborah Gordon, Mayor of Woodside
Mukesh Khattar, Oracle
Sepi Richardson, Brisbane City Council
Nicole Sandkulla, BAWSCA

Guests:

Eunice Barnett, PG&E
Dianne Dryer, Menlo Park
Caitlin Henig, PG&E
Greg Munks, San Mateo County Sheriff
Jim Sowerbrower, San Mateo County Capital Projects Manager
Juda Tolmasoff, Aide to Supervisor Jerry Hill

Actions items

Electeds: Let Gina know if you are interested in one or more interns to help with energy efficiency, water conservation or climate protection efforts. No guarantees...

Gina: Prepare FAQ on barriers and overcoming resistance; research Solar City rebate options

Kathy: Check on whether a utility bill will include a user's carbon footprint under the Climate Smart or any other program

Mario: call Larry Buckmaster to urge him to include energy and climate change issues in the Progress Seminar

Notes

Savings by Design Award

Kathy Lavezzo presented an Honor Award (the highest level granted, one of only two in the state) to Sheriff Munks and Jim Sowerbrower for the San Mateo County Sheriff's Crime Lab. The award recognizes exceptional design, energy efficiency and environmental sensitivity, and is given by the Architectural Institute of America, PG&E, San Diego Energy, Southern California Gas, Southern California Edison and Sacramento Municipal Utilities District. The building nestles into a hillside location in San Mateo and exceeds the state's stringent Title 24 (energy efficiency) standards by 38 percent.

Sheriff Munks and Mr. Sowerbrower thanked PG&E for the award and the Board of Supervisors for their ongoing support.

CMEQ update

The latest draft of the CMEQ presentation was approved. The material will be presented at the CMEQ meeting on Feb. 26.

What jurisdictions can do to save energy in their own facilities (continued from the January meeting)

Green building in the civic sector – Dianne Anderson

Environmentally-efficient design saves money on operating costs and increases productivity and health benefits for workers. The Public Agency Council, Ask An Expert and other programs of Build It Green (BIG) are excellent resources for cities and agencies interested in investigating and implementing a green building program. Dianne's presentation and the studies and survey cited are available via the USTF website, <http://www.ccag.ca.gov/USTF.html>.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group's green building initiative is not related to BIG or the county's efforts to promote green building.

Utility management system software and IT savings – Bruce Chamberlain

Bruce touched on both issues at the end of his presentation in January, but provided additional information on the significant savings potential. Utility management software can accept utility bills electronically, saving staff time and reducing the risk of data entry errors, and can be used to spot anomalies or generate CO₂ reduction reports.

Changing operational practices with a city's computer network can also yield big savings. At one site with 4000 computers, use of a centralized CPU sleep function saved 291 kWh per year, a reduction of 62% saving \$130,000 annually. The savings can add up rapidly, especially during peak hours when commercial and institutional rates are highest. Bruce's slides are also available on the USTF site.

Self-Generation Incentive Program and the CA Solar Initiative – Caitlin Henig, PG&E

The SGIP program began in 2001 to provide rebates for both solar and non-solar energy sources. The highest current rebate rate is for renewable fuel cells, at \$4.50 per watt. The California Solar Initiative (a.k.a. the Million Solar Roofs initiative) began in 2007 and establishes a 10-year, \$3 billion solar incentive program, intended to yield 3000

megawatts of solar power. The incentive rate structure provides upfront rebates for systems of estimated output of less than 100 kW, but pays out rebates based on the electricity actually generated for larger systems (over five years). The latter method usually results in higher overall rebates; it is available on request for smaller systems and will ultimately be the only rebate method offered. Rebates will decline as installed capacity meets certain thresholds.

As of this year, all projects must submit an energy audit. By next year, only projects that have implemented energy efficiency measures will be approved. Accordingly, agencies should start with energy efficiency audits, then implement energy efficiency measures, and only then consider solar or other self-generation projects. Send any questions about the SGIP and CSI programs to solar@pge.com.

Financing models: CEC loans – Bruce Chamberlain

Bruce used materials from an Energy Watch implementation workshop (which may be offered again soon) on financing energy efficiency measures. He noted that CA Government Code section 4217.18 allows local governments to sole-source energy efficiency projects as long as they meet specific criteria.

The CEC (CA Energy Commission) offers 15-year loans at rates of between 4.1 and 4.5 %, depending on the speed of implementation. These loans do not require electorate consent. The goal is to enable comprehensive energy efficiency projects, blending high-impact, long-term payback measures with shorter-term projects for maximum overall energy savings. Bruce's slides are on the website.

CA Communities Go-Solar Program – Gina Blus

This program, like others, takes advantage of the tax and other financial incentives available to the private sector to lower the ultimate cost of solar energy to public agencies. California Communities is a project of the League of Cities and claims that the rates offered under this program are the lowest possible. A private operator buys, installs and maintains a solar system on public facilities, selling the power generated to the agency under a long-term contract.

Advantages to the agency include no upfront costs for the system, locked-in energy prices for a 20- or 25-year term, the ability to use clean power and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions related to agency activities. Renewable energy credits and greenhouse gas emission credits are generally retained by the operator, but could be granted in whole or part to the agency in the contract for an additional fee. Gina's slides are on the website.

Roundtable/Comments

- Solar City is offering deep discounts if a city promotes its solar installation services.
- Mark Leno (state assemblyman for San Francisco) is sponsoring [AB 2993](#), which would override the current net metering limit of .5% of peak demand and increase PG&E's limit to 200 MW (up from 95 MW).

- The Westin in Millbrae is going live with its new 1 MW fuel cell. A field trip could be arranged if task force members are interested in seeing the fuel cell.

- The countywide Recycling Committee meeting on Feb. 21 will include a tour of Millbrae's new biogas-powered waste treatment plant. It runs on 3000 gallons of waste grease per day. Bruce Chamberlain will also present the Energy Watch program to attendees.

- Barbara Pierce is putting together energy-saving and climate-protection materials for her City Council and will share them with the group

- Terry Nagel is setting up a session on going green.

- Richard Napier presented Energy Watch to the City Managers, which elicited some interest. He will also present the information to the C/CAG Board.

- Gina Blus is trying to set up an internship program with SF State college students studying Environmental Resources – let her know if you are interested in getting an intern.

Next meeting

How local governments can use their regulatory authority to reduce energy and water use and lower greenhouse gas emissions in their jurisdictions